

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

TENSION MASK FRAME ASSEMBLY OF COLOR PICTURE TUBE

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application makes reference to, incorporates the same herein, and claims all benefits accruing under 35 U.S.C. §119 from an application entitled *Tension-mask frame assembly for color picture tube* earlier filed in the Korean Industrial Property Office on 12 July 2000, and there duly assigned Serial No. 2000-39985 by that Office.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to color picture tubes, and more particularly, to a tension mask frame assembly for a color picture tube, which is installed adjacent to a fluorescent film in a panel and performs a color distinction function.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] In color picture tubes adopted in computer monitors and televisions, three electron beams emitted from an electron gun land on red, green and blue fluorescent materials on a fluorescent film, which is formed on the screen surface of a panel, through electron beam passing holes of a mask which has a color distinction function, and excite the fluorescent materials, where a picture is

1 formed.

2 [0004] In the above-described color picture tubes for forming a picture, types of a mask having
3 a color distinction function include a dot mask which is adopted in computer monitors and a slot
4 mask (which is also called a slit mask) which is adopted in televisions. Since the screen surface of
5 a panel is formed to have a predetermined curvature in consideration of the landing of deflected
6 electron beams, dot masks and slot masks are designed to have a curvature corresponding to the
7 curvature of the screen surface.

8 [0005] These masks are formed by etching a 0.1-0.25mm (millimeters) thin plate, forming a
9 plurality of electron beam pass holes and forming the thin plate in a predetermined curvature. If the
10 mask has not a predetermined curvature or greater, the structural strength of the mask is weak. Thus,
11 in many cases, this mask is permanently plastic-deformed during the manufacture of cathode-ray
12 tubes or during the transportation of cathode-ray tubes. Consequently, this mask may not perform
13 a color distinction function. However, a mask molded to have a predetermined curvature is
14 supported by a frame and installed on the inner surface of a panel. The mask is easily heated and
15 thermally expanded by thermal electrons emitted from an electron gun, and doming occurs,
16 preventing color distinction of three electron beams.

17 [0006] Recent color picture tubes pursue flattening of a screen surface because the development
18 of enlargement of color picture tubes causes distortion of a picture depending on the curvature of the
19 screen surface and requires reproduction of natural pictures.

20 [0007] Slot masks for preventing the doming of a mask and flattening the screen surface of a panel
21 have been disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,638,063 for *Grid Structure for Color Picture Tubes* issued

1 to Tachikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,942,332 for *Tied Slit Mask for Color Cathode Ray Tubes*
2 issued to Adler et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,926,089 for *Tied Slit Foil Shadow Mask with False Ties*
3 issued to Moore and U.S. Patent No. 4,973,283 for *Method of Manufacturing a Tied Slit Mask CRT*
4 issued to Adler et al.

5 [0008] An aperture grille-type mask frame assembly includes strips spaced predetermined
6 intervals apart from each other in parallel to form slots. Both ends of the strips are supported by a
7 frame so that the mask has a tensile force. The strips are connected to each other by damper wires,
8 in order to prevent the strips from vibrating independently.

9 [0009] However, the mask frame assembly is not easy to handle during the manufacture because
10 of its structure in which the strips formed on a plate are parallel to each other and secured at only
11 both ends thereof.

12 [0010] In order to solve this problem, a slot mask disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,942,332 issued
13 to Tachikawa et al. has a structure in which a plurality of strips are spaced predetermined intervals
14 apart from each other on a thin plate to form slits and connected to adjacent strips by tie bars.

15 [0011] Since the strips of this mask are connected to each other by tie bars, howling vibration
16 generated by external impacts and acoustic waves can be more or less reduced. But, the vibration
17 of tie bars is transmitted between adjacent strips, so that the reduction of the howling is not large.

18 [0012] To solve this problem, a color cathode-ray tube is disclosed in Japanese Patent Publication
19 No. 2000-77007 for *Color Cathode-ray Tube* by Watanabe. In this color cathode-ray tube there is
20 a shadow mask on which a plurality of slots are formed is installed on a frame so that a tensile force
21 is applied to the shadow mask. The frame includes a vibration damper which contacts the edge of

1 the shadow mask.

2 [0013] The cathode-ray tube having such a structure dampens vibration by adhering the vibration
3 damper to the shadow mask. However, the shadow mask is a thin plate through which slots are
4 formed, and transmits vibration well via media for transmitting vibration, that is, via real bridges for
5 defining slots, so that a sufficient amount of vibration cannot be damped by the vibration damper
6 33 alone.

7 [0014] Another shadow mask frame assembly includes a frame, a mask and an earing. The mask
8 is tensed and secured to the frame, and has strips spaced predetermined intervals apart from each
9 other in parallel and a plurality of real bridges which connect the strips to each other to define the
10 slots. The earing is hung through the end strip of the mask in order to dampen the vibration of the
11 mask.

12 [0015] This mask frame assembly intends to extinguish a vibration applied to the mask using the
13 friction of the end strip and the earing. However, the friction of the end strip and the earing creates
14 noise. Also, the strips on the mask are connected to each other by a plurality of real bridges, so that
15 vibrations are transmitted well via the bridges. Thus, although a vibration generated on the center
16 portion of the mask is damped by the earrings after being transmitted to the end strip, a sufficient
17 vibration damping effect cannot be expected.

18 [0016] In this mask, scanning electron beams interfere with holes arranged on a mask, which
19 causes a moire phenomenon. Since the spots of electron beams which land on a fluorescent film are
20 deformed into horizontally-long spots by the strong pin cushion magnetic field of a deflection yoke
21 as the deflection angle of electron beams increases, severe moire phenomenon occurs at the

1 peripheral portion of a screen. Thus, selection of a mask pitch that minimizes the moire
2 phenomenon and reduction of the vertical pitch of a mask to reduce the depth of modulation have
3 been used.

4 [0017] These methods, by which the transmissivity of the peripheral portion of a mask is reduced,
5 are not desirable in terms of the uniformity of the luminance of a screen.

6 [0018] Also, in the case of these masks, a mask domes severely by the heat from electron beams.
7 Furthermore, the doming is prone to occur at the periphery of a mask. In the case of tension masks,
8 if a cheap iron material is used, the masks including its bridge portion expand horizontally, a moire
9 phenomenon occurs on the screen.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 [0019] To solve the above problems, an objective of the present invention is to provide a tension
mask frame assembly of a color cathode-ray tube, by which the transmission of vibration between
11 strips is reduced, the vibration damping effect by the fraction of strips and damper wires is improved,
12 the moire phenomenon due to the interference between electron beams and slots is prevented, and
13 the luminance of pictures is improved.

14 [0020] It is another object to have a tension mask frame that produces a better image quality in
15 a cathode-ray tube.

16 [0021] It is yet another object to have a tension mask that is easy to manufacture and does not
17 increase the cost of manufacture.

18 [0022] To achieve the above objects, the present invention provides a tension mask frame

1 assembly of a color cathode-ray tube, according to a first embodiment of the present invention, the
2 assembly includes a tension mask including a plurality of parallel strips spaced at predetermined
3 intervals apart from each other and a plurality of real bridges for connecting adjacent strips to each
4 other to form slots through which electron beams pass, the number of real bridges gradually
5 decreasing in a direction from the center portion of the mask to the peripheral portion thereof; a
6 frame for supporting the tension mask so that a tensile force is applied to the tension mask in the
7 direction of strips; and at least one damper which is installed on the frame and contact the strips of
8 the tension mask.

1 **[0023]** In this embodiment of the present invention, the damper is made up of at least one damping
2 wire having both ends secured to the frame, the damping wire contacting each of the strips. Also,
3 the damper can be made up of two damping wires, one end of which is secured to the mask and the
4 other end is secured to the frame.

13 **[0024]** To further achieve the above objects, the present invention provides a tension mask frame
14 assembly of a color cathode-ray tube, according to a second embodiment of the present invention,
15 the assembly includes a mixed-type tension mask including a plurality of parallel strips spaced at
16 predetermined intervals apart from each other, a real bridge region having real bridges for connecting
17 adjacent strips to each other to form slots through which electron beams pass, the real bridge region
18 being located at the center of the mask, and a dummy bridge region having a plurality of dummy
19 bridges that extend from at least one strip of adjacent strips so that the extending strip does not
20 mechanically contact the facing strip, the dummy bridge regions being located on the peripheral
21 portion of the mask; a frame for supporting the tension mask so that a tensile force is applied to the

1 tension mask; and at least one damper which is installed on the frame and contact the strips of the
2 tension mask.

3 [0025] To further achieve the above objectives, the present invention provides a tension mask
4 frame assembly of a color cathode-ray tube, according to a third embodiment of the present
5 invention, the assembly including a tension mask of mixed type including a plurality of parallel
6 strips spaced at predetermined intervals apart from each other, a real bridge region having real
7 bridges for connecting adjacent strips to each other to form slots through which electron beams pass,
8 the real bridge region being located at the center of the mask, a dummy bridge region having a
9 plurality of dummy bridges that extend from at least one strip of adjacent parallel strips so that the
10 extending strip does not mechanically contact the facing strip, the dummy bridge region being
11 located at the outer side of the real bridge region, and an aperture grille region having a single slot
12 defined by strips, the aperture grille region being located at the outer side of the dummy bridge
13 region; a frame for supporting the tension mask so that a tensile force is applied to the tension mask;
14 and at least one damper which is installed on the frame and contact the strips of the tension mask.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

16 [0026] A more complete appreciation of this invention, and many of the attendant advantages
17 thereof, will be readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following
18 detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like
19 reference symbols indicate the same or similar components, wherein:

20 [0027] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a conventional tension mask assembly of a cathode-ray

1 tube;

2 [0028] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a conventional tension mask assembly;

3 [0029] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of an earlier tension mask assembly;

4 [0030] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a cathode-ray tube in which a tension mask assembly
5 according to the present invention is installed;

6 [0031] FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a tension mask assembly according to an embodiment of
7 the present invention;

Subb. 1 [0032] FIGS. 6 and 7 are plan views of other embodiments of the tension mask of FIG. 5;

Subb. 2 [0033] FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a tension mask assembly according to another embodiment
of the present invention;

[0034] FIG. 9 is a plan view of another embodiment of the tension mask of FIG. 8;

[0035] FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a tension mask assembly according to still another
embodiment of the present invention;

[0036] FIG. 11A and 11B are plan views of another embodiment of the tension mask of FIG. 10;
and

[0037] FIG. 12 is a graph showing a comparison of a variation in the howling characteristics and
the doming characteristics with respect to the number of real bridges in the case of a tension mask
according to the present invention with that in the case of an earlier mask.

19 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

1 [0038] Turning now to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows a mask frame assembly of aperture grille type
2 among the above-disclosed masks. As shown in FIG. 1, an aperture grille-type mask frame assembly
3 10 includes strips 11 spaced predetermined intervals apart from each other in parallel to form slots.
4 Both ends of the strips 11 are supported by a frame 12 so that the mask has a tensile force. The strips
5 11 are connected to each other by damper wires 13, in order to prevent the strips from vibrating
6 independently.

7 [0039] However, the mask frame assembly 10 is not easy to handle during the manufacture
8 because of its structure in which the strips formed on a plate are parallel to each other and secured
9 at only both ends thereof.

10 [0040] In order to solve this problem, a slot mask disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,942,332 issued
11 to Tachikawa et al. has a structure in which a plurality of strips are spaced predetermined intervals
12 apart from each other on a thin plate to form slits and connected to adjacent strips by tie bars.

13 [0041] Since the strips of this mask are connected to each other by tie bars, howling vibration
14 generated by external impacts and acoustic waves can be more or less reduced. But, the vibration
15 of tie bars is transmitted between adjacent strips, so that the reduction of the howling is not large.

16 [0042] To solve this problem, a color cathode-ray tube is disclosed in Japanese Patent Publication
17 No. 2000-77007 for *Color Cathode-ray Tube* by Watanabe. In this color cathode-ray tube shown
18 in FIG. 2, a shadow mask 32 on which a plurality of slots (not shown) are formed is installed on a
19 frame 31 so that a tensile force is applied to the shadow mask 32. The frame 31 includes a vibration
20 damper 33 which contacts the edge of the shadow mask 32.

1 [0043] The cathode-ray tube having such a structure dampens vibration by adhering the vibration
2 damper 33 to the shadow mask 32. However, the shadow mask is a thin plate through which slots
3 are formed, and transmits vibration well via media for transmitting vibration, that is, via real bridges
4 for defining slots, so that a sufficient amount of vibration cannot be damped by the vibration
5 damper 33 alone.

6 [0044] FIG. 3 shows another example of an earlier shadow mask frame assembly. As shown in
7 FIG. 3, a shadow mask frame assembly 40 includes a frame 48, a mask 44 and an earing 46. The
8 mask 44 is tensed and secured to the frame 48, and has strips 41 and 41' spaced predetermined
9 intervals apart from each other in parallel and a plurality of real bridges 43 which connect the strips
10 41 and 41' to each other to define slots 42. The earing 46 is hung through the end strip 45 of the
11 mask 44 in order to dampen the vibration of the mask.

12 [0045] This mask frame assembly intends to extinguish a vibration applied to the mask using the
13 friction of the end strip 45 and the earing 46. However, the friction of the end strip 45 and the earing
14 46 creates noise. Also, the strips on the mask are connected to each other by a plurality of real
15 bridges, so that vibrations are transmitted well via the bridges. Thus, although a vibration generated
16 on the center portion of the mask is damped by the earrings 46 after being transmitted to the end
17 strip, a sufficient vibration damping effect cannot be expected.

18 [0046] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a cathode-ray tube in which a tension mask assembly
19 according to the present invention is installed. As shown in FIG. 4, a color cathode-ray tube 60
20 includes a panel 62 on which a fluorescent film 61 having a predetermined pattern is formed, and
21 a tension mask frame assembly 63 installed on the inner surface of the panel 62. The panel 62 meets

1 with a funnel 66 having a neck portion 64 on which an electron gun 65 is installed, and a deflection
2 yoke 67 for deflecting an electron beam emitted from the electron gun 65 to allow the electron beam
3 to accurately land on a fluorescent film is installed on the neck portion 64 and a cone portion of the
4 funnel 66.

5 [0047] FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a tension mask assembly according to an embodiment of
6 the present invention. As shown in FIG. 5, this tension mask assembly includes a frame 100, a mask
7 70 and a damper 200. The frame is made up of support members 101 and 102 isolated a
8 predetermined interval apart from each other and elastic members 103 and 104 for supporting both
9 ends of each of the support members 101 and 102. The facing longer sides of the mask 70 are
10 supported by the support members 101 and 102, so that tension is applied to the mask 70. The
11 damper 200 dampens the vibration of the mask 70. Preferably, the sides of the support members 101
12 and 102 by which a tension mask is supported are curved so that a tension mask having a tension by
13 being welded to the support members 101 and 102 has a predetermined curvature.

14 [0048] The tension mask 70 is formed of a thin plate as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, and has a
15 plurality of strips 71 and 71' spaced predetermined intervals apart from each other in parallel and
16 a plurality of real bridges 73 for connecting adjacent strips 71 and 71' to each other to define slots
17 72 through electron beams are passed. Here, the number of real bridges 73 gradually decreases in
18 a direction from the center portion C of the tension mask to the peripheral portion P thereof. That
19 is, the vertical pitch of the real bridge 73 gradually increases in the X-axis direction (in the horizontal
20 direction perpendicular to the strips) from the center of the tension mask. The real bridges 73, the
21 number of which decreases in the X-axis direction from the center portion of the tension mask, are

1 randomly arranged to hinder the transmission of vibrations from the center portion or peripheral
2 portion. Here, the number of real bridges decreases in a direction from the center of the tension
3 mask to the periphery thereof, but the number of real bridges may be uniform without any decrease
4 or increase over a certain region between the center portion and the peripheral portion.

5 [0049] In the tension mask, it is preferable that at least one real bridge is formed between the end
6 strip 74 at the very end of the tension mask 70 in the X-axis direction and a strip 75 that is adjacent
7 to the end strip 74, or no real bridges are formed therebetween.

8 [0050] The slots 72 can have dummy bridges. As shown in FIG. 7, slots 72' defined by the strips
9 71 and 71' and the real bridges 73 have a plurality of dummy bridges 76 made up of protrusions 76a
10 and 76b that extend from the strips 71 and 71' in a facing direction and do not mechanically contact
11 each other. The slots 72 of FIG. 6 and slots 72' of FIG. 7 differ in that slots 72' have dummy bridges
12 76. Alternatively, the dummy bridges 76 located on the slots 73 can be formed by extending from
13 one strip.

14 [0051] Referring back to FIG. 5, both ends of the damper 200 are supported by the elastic
15 members 103 and 104 of the frame 100, and the damper 200 includes damping wires 201 and 202
16 which contact the strips 71 and 71' of the mask 70.

17 [0052] FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a tension mask assembly according to another embodiment
18 of the present invention. The same reference numerals as those of the above-described embodiment
19 denote the same elements.

1 [0053] As shown in FIG. 8, this tension mask assembly includes a frame 100, a tension mask 80
2 supported by the support members 101 and 102 of the frame 100 to be subjected to a tensile force,
3 and a damper 200 supported by the frame and the mask for preventing the vibration of the mask.

4 [0054] As shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, the tension mask 80 includes a real bridge region 85 having
5 a plurality of strips 81 and 81' spaced predetermined intervals apart from each other in parallel and
6 a plurality of real bridges 83 for connecting the strips to each other to form slots 82 through which
7 electron beams are passed. The tension mask 80 also includes a dummy bridge region 86 located
8 on both sides of the slot region 85 in the X-axis direction. The dummy bridge region 88 includes
9 strips 86 and 86' isolated from each other in parallel and a dummy bridge 87 made up of protrusions
10 87a and 87a' which extend from the edges of the strips 86 and 86' so as not to contact each other.

11 [0055] As shown in FIG. 9, dummy bridges 83' can be formed on the dummy bridge region 88
12 so that the number of real bridges decreases in an X-axis direction from the center of the real bridge
13 region 85 to the peripheral portion thereof. Thus, the pitch of a real bridge gradually increases in
14 a direction from the center of the tension mask 80 to the periphery thereof.

15 [0056] FIGS. 10, 11A, 11B are a perspective view and a plan view of a tension mask assembly
16 according to still another embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 10, a mask 90
17 formed of a thin plate is a combination-type mask including a real bridge region 93 and a dummy
18 bridge region 96. The real bridge region 93 has a real bridge 93'. The real bridge region 93 has a
19 plurality of parallel strips 91 and 91' isolated at predetermined intervals from each other on the
20 center portion of the mask 90, and real bridges 99a for connecting the strips to each other to form
21 the slots 92 through which electron beams are passed. The dummy bridge region 96 has a plurality

1 of parallel strips 94 and 94' isolated at predetermined intervals from each other on both sides of the
2 real bridge region 93, and dummy bridges 95 each made up of protrusions 95a and 95b which extend
3 from the strips 94 and 94' in a facing direction so that they do not mechanically contact each other.

4 Here, the slot 94a is divided at an equal pitch by the pitch of the dummy bridge 95, and the
5 protrusion can be formed by extending from one strip to the other strip instead of extending from
6 adjacent strips in a facing direction. The dummy bridge region 96 can have real bridges (not shown
7 in FIGs. 10 through 11B, but depicted in FIGs. 6 and 7) for connecting the strips 94 and 94'. In this
8 case, the number of real bridges decreases in the X-axis direction from the region of the slots 92.
9 An aperture grille region 97 is formed on the outside of the dummy bridge region 96, and includes
10 strips 99 and 99' installed in parallel to form a single slot 98. As shown in FIG. 11A, the strips 99
11 and 99' which form the aperture grille region 97 can be connected to each other by real bridges 99a.
12 In this case, the number of real bridges 99a decreases in a direction toward the outside, and at least
13 one real bridge 99a is formed between the end strip 110 at the periphery P of the mask 90 and a strip
14 adjacent to the end strip, or no real bridges are formed therebetween.

15 [0057] As shown in FIGs. 8 and 10, the damper 200 is made up of the damping wires 203 and 204
16 that contact the strips 81 and 81' of the real bridge region 85 and the strips 94 and 94' of the dummy
17 bridge region 96. Both ends of the damping wires 203 and 204 are secured to the elastic members
18 103 and 104 of the frame 100. The damping wires can be welded anywhere in the real bridge region.
19 As shown in FIG. 9 and 11A, another embodiment of the damper 200 includes first and second
20 damping wires 205 and 206. One end of the first damping wire 205 is welded to the real bridge
21 region 85 of the mask, and the other end is welded to the elastic member 104 of the frame 100. One

1 end of the second damping wire 206 is welded to the real bridge region 85 of the mask, and the other
2 end is welded to the elastic member 103 of the frame 100. The damping wires are not connected but
3 really contact the strips.

4 [0058] The operation of the color cathode-ray tube tension mask frame assembly having such a
5 structure will now be described. As shown in FIG. 5, the number of real bridges 73 for connecting
6 the strips 71 and 71' decreases in a direction from the center C to the periphery P, that is, in the X-
7 axis direction, thus damping the amount of impact vibration on the mask 70 transmitted to an
8 adjacent strip. Also, the damping wires of the damper 200 are connected to the strips 71 and 71' of
9 the tension mask 70, so that the damping efficiency of vibration on the mask created by impacts can
10 be increased.

11 [0059] To be more specific, in a conventional tension mask, the number of real bridges for
12 connecting strips is the same at the center portion of the tension mask as at the peripheral portion
13 thereof, so that vibration transmission such as vibration transmission performed on a thin plate is
14 accomplished. However, in the mask 70 according to the present invention, as the number of real
15 bridges 73 decreases in a direction from the center of the mask to the periphery thereof, the number
16 of media for transmitting vibration also decreases. Therefore, the amount of vibration transmitted
17 from the center to the periphery or from the periphery to the center can be reduced. Also, undamped
18 vibration is dampened by the contact friction between the damping wires 201 and the strips 71 and
19 71'.

20 [0060] As shown in FIG. 7, a slot 72' partitioned by the real bridges 73 has a dummy bridge 76
21 made up of protrusions 76a and 76b that extend from adjacent strips 71 and 71' in a facing direction

1 so that they do not mechanically contact each other. Thus, the mask frame assembly according to
2 the present invention can improve affirmation. To be more specific, the real bridges 73 block
3 electron beams emitted from an electron gun, and are installed in an irregular arrangement that the
4 number of real bridges decreases in a direction from the center of the mask to the periphery thereof,
5 so that they appear as black spots on a screen. Also, dummy bridges are installed on the slots, so that
6 the distribution of bridges is even over the entire surface of a screen. Thus, the real bridges that
7 appear as black spots cannot be realized by viewers.

8 [0061] As shown in FIG. 8 through 11B, when the color cathode-ray tube mask 80 is divided into
9 the real bridge region 85 and the dummy bridge region 88, and when the color cathode-ray tube
10 mask 90 is divided into the real bridge region 93, the dummy bridge region 96 and the aperture grille
11 region 97, the transmission of vibration can be further damped. That is, the strips 94 and 94' and
12 the strips 99 and 99' are separately formed on the dummy bridge region 88 or 96 and the aperture
13 grille region 97, respectively, so that vibration is prevented from being transmitted between the
14 strips. An independent vibration created on the independently-formed strips is damped by the
15 friction with the damping wires 203 and 204 that are supported by the frame and connected to the
16 independent strips. In particular, as shown in FIG. 9 and 11A, a damper is made up of first and
17 second damping wires 205 and 206, one end of which is secured to the real bridge region of the
18 tension mask and the other end is secured to the frame, so that the strips on the dummy bridge region
19 are connected to the strips on the aperture grille region by the first and second damping wires 205
20 and 206. Thus, an independent vibration of the strips can be prevented. The real bridge area
21 (region) means an area encompassing real bridges and the strips where real bridges are formed.

1 Likewise, the dummy bridge area (region) means an area encompassing dummy bridges and the
2 strips where dummy bridges are formed.

3 [0062] Also, since the aperture grille region 97 has a single slot 98, clamping due to the deflection
4 of electron beams can be reduced. Also, the aperture grille region 97 prevents electron beams from
5 being blocked by the real bridges 93 and the dummy bridges 95, thereby improving the luminance
6 at the peripheral portion of a screen. This improvement of luminance can minimize the clamping
7 of electron beams caused by a decrease in the incident angle of electron beams when the electron
8 beams are deflected to the peripheral portion of a fluorescent film by a deflection yoke.
9 Furthermore, the number of real bridges that connect the strips decreases in a direction from the
10 center portion of the mask to the peripheral portion thereof, so that the real bridges can reduce the
11 degree of doming caused by the thermal expansion of the mask when the mask is heated by electron
12 beams emitted from an electron gun.

13 [0063] The present inventor obtained the graph of FIG. 12 by measuring the howling
14 characteristics and the doming characteristics of a tension mask in the tension mask frame assembly
15 having such a structure installed in a cathode-ray tube.

16 [0064] As shown in FIG. 12, as the number of real bridges increases in a conventional mask,
17 howling phenomenon decreases as indicated by reference character A, and doming phenomenon
18 increases as indicated by reference character B. However, in the case of a mask according to the
19 present invention, as the number of real bridges for connecting strips to each other decreases in the
20 X-axis direction, the doming phenomenon and howling phenomenon significantly decrease as
21 indicated by reference character C, compared to a conventional mask.

1 [0065] A tension mask according to the present invention has real bridges, the number of which
2 decreases from the center portion of the mask to the peripheral portion thereof, thereby reducing
3 Poisson contraction caused by a tensile force applied when the tension mask is installed on a frame.
4 In the described tension mask frame assembly of a color cathode-ray tube according to the present
5 invention, the number of real bridges decreases in a direction from the center of a tension mask to
6 the periphery thereof. Thus, the damping effect of vibration transmission can be improved, and
7 moire phenomenon due to the interference between the pattern formed by the real bridges and
8 dummy bridges and the pattern of a fluorescent film can be reduced.

9 [0066] Although the invention has been described with reference to a particular embodiment, it
10 will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that modifications of the described embodiment
11 may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the pattern
12 of electron pass holes in a mask can be formed by the combination of a real bridge region, a dummy
bridge region and an aperture grille region.